



21th Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026

Advent Lutheran Church

We extend welcome to people of all races, cultures and colors; to people of all sexual orientations, gender expression and gender identity; to people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities; to people of every legal, economic and marital status and to all those the world seeks to separate, divide or isolate. We celebrate your identity as a gift from God. You are welcome to a diverse community united by faith. Receive God's grace given to all regardless of worldly successes or failures.

Together we commit ourselves to embrace the continuing work of anti-racism, social and economic justice and environmental care.

*"Welcome one another therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you,
for the glory of God." Romans 15.7*



Advent is a **Reconciling in Christ** congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Welcome

Worship includes everyone! You are invited to speak the bold-printed words in this bulletin. “ELW” refers to the red hymnal in front of you. “ACS” refers to hymns found in the purple hymnal. During the Sharing of Peace, people generally move around the sanctuary to share signs of Christ’s peace with a hug, a handshake, a peace sign, or saying the words, “Peace be with you.” Participate at your own comfort level.

Children are welcome in worship! Children are always encouraged to participate in worship. If your little one needs a break, there is space to play and stretch out in the narthex. A TV screen will allow you to see and hear worship while supervising your child. Quiet bags and coloring supplies can be found in the narthex and brought to your pews. During the Family Lesson, children are invited to come forward, with or without a grown-up, for a message created especially for them. Don’t worry — wiggles and noises are expected! Sunday School takes place after the Family Lesson in the A building next door; children return to worship during the Sharing of Peace.

Fidget toys are available in bags in most pews. Noise-canceling headphones are also available. Ask an usher if you need a set. Neurodiversity is celebrated here.

Holy Communion is intended for everyone. It is an open table. Ushers will guide you. Gluten-free wafers and non-alcoholic grape juice are available.

Newcomer today? Use the QR code on the back page to learn more about Advent.

Your offering of financial support, time and talent enables us to do God’s work locally and globally! The QR links on the back page will guide you to an online giving platform or to our Vemo account. Checks can be written to Advent Lutheran Church. Thank you for your generosity!

Restrooms are located in the Fellowship Hall next door.

The blue HERE I AM! card in your pew rack can be used to request a meeting with the pastor or ask for prayers. Visitors are invited to share their contact information and check the appropriate box to request our e-news. Place the card in the gold plate that will be passed to you during Offering.

Thank you for serving today:

Ushers: Bill Case, Tom Sweeney

Lector: Miriam Brady

Hospitality: Columbarium Committee

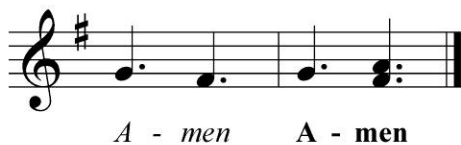
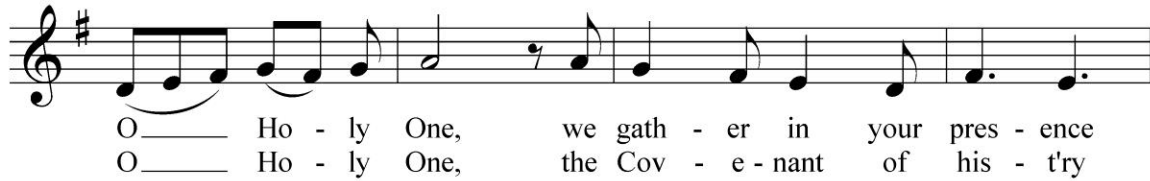
— GATHERING —

Prelude

Welcome & Gathering Hymn

O Holy One

An Invocation



Words and music by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan
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Prayer of the Day

God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

— WORD —

Family Lesson and Sunday School

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,

to open doors before him—

and the gates shall not be closed:

² I will go before you

and level the mountains;

I will break in pieces the doors of bronze

and cut through the bars of iron;

³ I will give you the treasures of darkness

and riches hidden in secret places,

so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,

the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob

and Israel my chosen,

I call you by your name;

I give you a title, though you do not know me.

⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other;

besides me there is no god.

I arm you, though you do not know me,

⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun

and from the west, that there is no one besides me;

I am the LORD, and there is no other.

⁷ I form light and create darkness,

I make weal and create woe;

I the LORD do all these things.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 96:1-9

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song;

sing to the LORD, all the earth.

² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;**

proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

³ Declare God's glory among the nations

and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,**

more to be feared than all gods.

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;

but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;**

power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- ⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

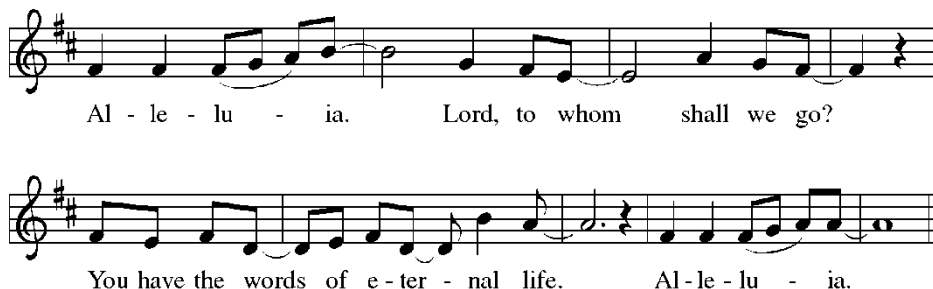
¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly
³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and
steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved
by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in
word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you
know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became
imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy
from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and
in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia
and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no
need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you
and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his
Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming
wrath.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their
disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere,

and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

God of Life, We Are Your People



1. God of life, we are your peo - ple, in your like - ness, formed by grace.
2. You have free - ly gi - ven to us that which mon - ey can - not buy —

Here on earth, we are your bo - dy bound in Christ, one hu - man race.
grace and mer - cy, peace and kind - ness, love in lim - it - less sup - ply!

We are mint - ed in your im - age; we are price - less; we are free!
Help us free - ly give to oth - ers, thus your im - age to dis - play.

We are heav - en's cir - cu - la - tion in your love's e - con - o - my.
Let us spend our lives in giv - ing, as you gave your life a - way.

Words by Chris Shelton, (c) 2024 GIA Publications, Inc.

Prayers of the People

Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Sharing Christ's Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Announcements

Offering and Offering Song *Take My Life, That I May Be*

ELW #583

Giving Made Easy: *You may give your offering by scanning the Venmo QR code here. Thank you for your generosity and faithful support of our ministry.*



Offering Prayer

God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Instructions and Invitation to the Table

All are welcome at Christ's table. Ushers will guide you. Gluten-free and non-alcoholic elements are available.

Distribution and Music

Commonwealth is God's Commandment

ACS #1036

We Give Thee but Thine Own

ELW #686

When Our Song Says Peace

ELW #709

Post-Communion Blessing

Sustaining God,

with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.

By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

— SENDING —

Sending Hymn

To Be Your Presence

ELW #546

Blessing

The God of love

draw you into full accord and one mind,

in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope

grant you strength and joy in all circumstances

through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace

✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Weekly Bible Study with Pastor Anne meets every Tuesday at 12pm in the Fellowship Hall or via Zoom (a link can be found in each Wednesday email). This week's readings: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

On **All Saints Sunday**, we will be honoring those who have passed away during the past year. If you would like your loved one's name included in the remembrance at worship, please e-mail their full name to Sofia in the church office at churchoffice@adventlutheran.net by **October 25** so that names can be included for our prayers on All Saints Sunday worship.

Advent's Second Annual Food Giveaway

On Saturday, November 21, at 12 noon, we will be holding our Second Annual Food Giveaway in the Fellowship Hall. Similar to last year, the purpose of the giveaway is to help our neighbors offset the cost of groceries around the holidays. This year we are asking the congregation to purchase **frozen turkey breasts** - either the 2.75 pound Jenny-O or the 3 pound Butterball - and bring them to Sunday church service from October 18 through November 15. The turkey breasts typically range in price from \$11.99 to \$17.99. The food giveaway is a wonderful ministry that helps many during difficult economic times. If you would like to participate in this feeding ministry, please contact Lynn Riley at lynn@maurella.net or call her at [206-617-0199](tel:206-617-0199).

A new **Women's Afternoon Bible Study** of fellowship and learning is waiting for you on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21st! We are looking forward to seeing you in the Fellowship Hall from 1:00-3:00. Maybe with a friend??? Ann will be leading us as we discuss Session 2 of I Am Worthy: I am More than One Thing, from the Gather magazine. Don't worry if you don't have the magazine - we'll have a copy of the study available for you. There will also be light refreshments and an abundance of wonderful fellowship! So join in the fun! We can't wait to see you there!

Help Our Preschool Grow! **Advent Lutheran Preschool** is a new ministry, and we need your help to keep it growing. We are looking for volunteers with skills or experience in marketing, social media, community outreach, communications, or student recruitment who would be willing to share those gifts with our preschool. Our primary goal is to reach more families, increase awareness in our community, and welcome more children into our preschool. If this sounds like an area where you could help, please contact Miriam Brady at preschool@adventlutheran.net.

Advent Lutheran Preschool is looking for **caring, dependable substitute teachers** to help keep our classrooms running smoothly when a regular teacher needs to be away. This is a paid position, and training is provided. If you enjoy working with young children and would enjoy the opportunity to support our preschool ministry on an as-needed basis, we'd love to hear from you. Interested or want to learn more? Contact Miriam Brady at preschool@adventlutheran.net. Come be part of helping our youngest learners grow, play, and thrive!

Our preschool teachers are looking for Halloween candies! If you're able to donate 3 bags of candy by October 28 and drop them off at Sofia's desk, we would greatly appreciate your help. Thank you for helping make Halloween extra sweet for our little ones!

Connect

Council Leaders

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Brian Hall, Treasurer
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